

FREE PRESS
QUAKERTOWN, PA
PM-3,000

Decision on Revere site sparks mixed emotions

By DAVID HERZOG
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Local officials and neighbors of the Revere Chemical Company site, along Route 611, in Nockamixon Township, have expressed mixed feelings about the placement of Revere onto the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund priority list.

United States Representative Peter Kostmayer (D-8th District) was unavailable for comment, but John Seager, Kostmayer's press secretary, said Kostmayer is "pleased" has been finalized. But, he added, Kostmayer thinks approval "came too late," as the site has been contaminated for two decades.

State Senator James C. Greenwood (R-10th District) said, "I think it's great" Revere has been slated for Superfund cleanup. He added, "We're going to get as thorough cleanup job accomplished at that site."

Nockamixon Township Supervisor

John Budd said, "I am delighted it's on the list. It more or less confirms our conviction that it is a hazardous site."

He said Nockamixon Supervisors rejected a request by Harbucks, Inc., owner of the 11-acre site in 1985 for a curative amendment which would allow Harbucks to use the site as a quarry for road construction stone. An appeal by Harbucks to a three-judge Bucks County Court panel was heard last June. A decision has not been handed down yet.

But another township supervisor, Howard Shive, said, "I'm not in favor" of the cleanup. He said a cleanup could possibly disturb the site and release contaminants into groundwater.

The site, in its present state "is not hurting anybody...I don't know what the big deal is now," he said. "That's been laying dormant there for so many years...it's pushing 20 years now."

Continued on page 2

Reaction

Continued from page 1

"It's great that they put it on the list," said Herbert P. Scott, whose home and machine shop are adjacent to Revere. However he questioned whether the cleanup would only worsen the situation. "They're going to...potentially put the waste in the air," he said.

Scott said he believes the EPA will only kick up dust when they clean up the site. "How are they going to stop the dust from blowing all over the people?"

"Are they going to give the people in the area space suits like the EPA has?" he asked. He said EPA investigators wore protective suits when they inspected the site in 1985.

Scott said the EPA should instead

encapsulate the site by lining it with an impervious clay barrier so chemical laden water would not seep into the groundwater and possible pollute residents' wells.

However, Scott said, "It seemed to me [EPA] was more inclined on cleaning it up so somebody else can go in there and make a lot of money."

Harry Freeman, who lives on Route 611, one-tenth mile from Revere, "I watched the chemicals being sprayed for ten years...huge fountains of green goo killed everything."

Freeman said he too supports encapsulation, rather than cleanup. "There's no safe way to clean it out," he said.

In addition, he said "the EPA should go after the dump's owners" and past operators, not companies who have had their waste dumped there. The EPA is currently negotiating with owners of the dump and companies which have dumped there to pay for the cleanup, said Raymond Germann, an EPA spokesman.

Scott said it would suit him fine if the site is closed for all time. "They should cover it up and leave it alone," he said.

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1/22/87

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